

“Celebrating America’s Independence”

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By Fourth District Supervisor Gary Ovitt

The Fourth of July is a celebration of freedom, democracy and independence. It is a day to exhibit our steadfast patriotism and honor our country.

On July 4, 1776, the founders of our nation declared themselves independent from England’s tyranny so they could live free. They no longer wanted to live under an oppressive government that left them over taxed and under represented. Instead, they wanted a nation in which the will of the people was paramount. Their live-free-or-die philosophy turned 13 colonies into the United States of America. Today and every day, thousands of people leave their homeland to come to “the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

Becoming a free country didn’t come easy. The founders risked their lives to achieve independence and the freedoms they fought for in the American Revolution are the same freedoms being defended today in the War on Terror.

I celebrate this Independence Day with gratitude to our brave men and women who continue to protect our country. I hope you will join me in thanking our troops for defending us and protecting freedom throughout the world. It is because of the strong resolve of American soldiers that other nations now enjoy many of the same freedoms as we do.

On this Fourth of July, I am reminded of how truly diverse and dynamic the United States is and continues to be. Each year on July Fourth, Americans celebrate our independence and freedom with barbeques, picnics, parades and family gatherings.

In the words of our Second President John Adams, the celebration of the Independence Day holiday should be the “great anniversary holiday. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.”

We have a proud history of reaching out to others. Not always perfectly or consistently, but as a nation, more to feel good about than to regret. As the words state on the Statue of Liberty: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuge of your teeming shore. Send these the homeless, tempest tossed, to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”

This day is about much more than enjoying time with family and friends at parades and picnics. Above all else, it is a time to celebrate the ideals that make our nation the envy of the entire world – a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

As we celebrate America's birthday, it is my wish that Old Glory continue to fly proudly at home and throughout the world as a beacon of freedom and hope far into the future. God bless.